

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 5 have each been amended by limiting the reactive organic compound to the specific compounds described in the specification at page 4, line 22 through page 5, line 4, and for Claim 5, additionally described in the specification at page 6, line 27 through page 8, line 2.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 12, 14-15 and 18-20 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 12, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over US 3,194,732 (Neuhauser) in view of JP 7-246234 (Horiike et al), is respectfully traversed.

As recited in above amended Claims 1 and 5, the invention is a fiber processing agent used for processing a surface of a fiber, comprising a water-soluble eggshell membrane; and a particular reactive organic compound having a reactive group.

Neuhauser discloses an egg-shell membrane for use in various skin treatments, which membrane may be bonded to a base material through a suitable adhesive composition containing, for example, pectin, gelatin, starch, starch derivatives and vegetable gums(column 3, lines 67-73). Horiike et al discloses a soluble eggshell membrane deposited on the front surface of a water permeable sheet.

Even if one skilled in the art combined Neuhauser and Horiike et al, the result would not be the presently-claimed invention, since neither reference discloses or suggests any of the reactive organic compounds having a reactive group of the above-amended claims.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 12, 14-15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed March 29, 2007. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO 1449 submitted therewith, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication.

Applicants also respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the fact that the Office Action Summary page refers to an "Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)" as an attachment to the Office Action, but there was no such attachment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to correct the record by either indicating that there was no attachment or including the attachment with the next Office communication.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

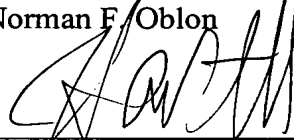
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